

What is claimed is:

1. A method implemented by a programmed computer system for characterizing earnings of an entity, which method comprises the steps of:

5 inputting data associated with the entity including a number of common shares outstanding, a value of earnings, a value of dividends per share, a change in the effective number of common shares outstanding, which change in the effective number of common shares outstanding reflects the possibility, based upon an economically reasonable analysis in light of market conditions, of conversion of a convertible security; and a value
10 of coupon payments;

calculating at least one value of earnings per share associated with the entity based upon at least some of the input data, wherein each value of earnings per share is calculated at least in part using the formula

$$EPS = DPS_0 + \frac{Earnings_0 - N_o \times DPS_0 - Coupon}{N_o + \Delta N_{eff}},$$

15 wherein $Earnings_0$ equals the input value of earnings, N_o equals the input number of common shares outstanding, DPS_0 equals the input value of dividends per share, $Coupon$ equals the input value of coupon payments, and ΔN_{eff} equals the input change in the effective number of common shares outstanding;

20 calculating values of earnings per share risk associated with the entity based upon at least some of the input data; and

recording the calculated earnings per share values associated with the entity and the calculated earnings per share risk values associated with the entity.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

25 iteratively changing a value of a stock price associated with the entity;
iteratively changing the value of coupon payments associated with the entity;
iteratively calculating additional values of earnings per share using the formula

$$EPS = DPS_0 + \frac{Earnings_0 - N_o \times DPS_0 - Coupon}{N_o + \Delta N_{eff}}.$$

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the entity is a public corporation.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein at least one of the calculated earnings per share values and the calculated earnings per share risk values is applied to a financial presentation relating to at least one of a balance sheet and an earnings per share metric.
 5. The method of claim 2, wherein the iterations and calculations are carried out at least in part using a Monte Carlo simulation.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the outputted calculated earnings per share values and the outputted calculated earnings per share risk values are plotted against one another.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the plot of calculated earnings per share values versus calculated earnings per share risk values is credit adjusted.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the economically reasonable analysis in light of market conditions takes into account a conversion premium associated with the convertible security.
9. A method implemented by a programmed computer system for characterizing earnings of an entity, which method comprises the steps of:
 - inputting data associated with the entity including a number of existing shares, a value of earnings, a value of an equity dividend, a value of an attributed after-tax interest expense from a convertible security, and a number of attributed shares from the convertible security, which number of attributed shares reflects the possibility, based upon an economically reasonable analysis in light of market conditions, of conversion of the convertible security;
 - calculating at least one value of earnings per share associated with the entity based upon at least some of the input data, wherein each value of earnings per share is calculated at least in part using the formula

$EPS = \text{dividend per share} + \text{retained EPS};$

wherein dividend per share = the value of the equity dividend / the number of

existing shares; and

wherein retained EPS = (earnings without taking effect of any interest expense

5 from the convertible security minus attributed after-tax interest expense from the
convertible security) / (the number of existing shares plus the number of attributed shares
from the convertible security);

calculating values of earnings per share risk associated with the entity based upon
at least some of the input data; and

10 recording the calculated earnings per share values associated with the entity and
the calculated earnings per share risk values associated with the entity.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

iteratively changing a value of a stock price associated with the entity;

15 iteratively changing the value of coupon payments associated with the entity;

iteratively calculating additional values of earnings per share using the formula

$EPS = \text{dividend per share} + \text{retained EPS};$

wherein dividend per share = the value of the equity dividend / the number of
existing shares; and

20 wherein retained EPS = (earnings without taking effect of any interest expense
from the convertible security minus attributed after-tax interest expense from the
convertible security) / (the number of existing shares plus the number of attributed shares
from the convertible security).

25 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the entity is a public corporation.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein at least one of the calculated earnings per
share values and the calculated earnings per share risk values is applied to a financial
presentation relating to at least one of a balance sheet and an earnings per share metric.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the iterations and calculations are carried out at least in part using a Monte Carlo simulation.

14. The method of claim 9, wherein the outputted calculated earnings per share values and the outputted calculated earnings per share risk values are plotted against one another.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the plot of calculated earnings per share values versus calculated earnings per share risk values is credit adjusted.

10 16. The method of claim 9, wherein the economically reasonable analysis in light of market conditions takes into account a conversion premium associated with the convertible security.

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